

US removes saccharin
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December is AIDS
awareness month



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Good 4 the Neighborhood



First place winners, Filomena College, showing off their teamwork See story on page 9

Three under the Discussion Tree

By: Roland W. Peterson



*Like a Ranger
the little owl
stood guard at its burrow*

*In the beautiful green
very seldom seen
This noble scene*

*It was on its mark
This Bonding in the Park*

*It was not one
not two but three
who came to discuss
under the discussion tree*

*Goals were set
Understandings met*

*Under the Discussion tree
There is place for more
Not one, not two, not three
but maybe four*

*The first stone was laid
The bridge was built
The architects were Three
Under the Discussion Tree.*

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MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

World leaders mourn 'warrior for peace' Holbrooke

ZAGREB, Croatia (AFP) - World leaders yesterday mourned the death of veteran US diplomat Richard Holbrooke, lauding the dogged negotiator as a colossus who against the odds brokered peace in conflict zones such as Bosnia.

US President Barack Obama led the tributes to his special envoy to Afghanistan who died on Monday, calling him "a true giant of American foreign policy who has made America stronger, safer, and more respected."

Balkan leaders praised Holbrooke for bringing stability to their region.

But with war still raging in Afghanistan, Afghan President Hamid Karzai, with whom Holbrooke had strained relations, struck a more nuanced note, pointedly terming his death as "a loss for the American people."



can people."

The 69-year-old peace negotiator was a veteran diplomat whose career spanned five decades, cutting his teeth in Vietnam before going on to become assistant secretary of state for Asia as China began to open up and ambassador to Germany, coinciding with the end of the Cold War.

Holbrooke's crowning glory was the 1995 Dayton peace accords which ended the three-year war in Bosnia.

Dubbed "the bulldozer" for his hard-nosed style, Holbrooke alternately browbeat and cajoled the nationalist leaders of former Yugoslavia until a deal was struck between the belligerent parties in November 1995.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon paid tribute to a "man of history," saying Holbrooke was "a giant and a legend in his time."

"The advice on which so many relied reflected the rich breadth and challenge of his extraordinary career," Ban added.

Former Croatian foreign minister Mate Granic, who was at the Dayton negotiations, said Holbrooke, who died after emergency heart surgery for a torn aorta, "was one of the greatest US diplomats of the past 20 years."

"Holbrooke always set a clear goal. He was a good tactician, a great diplomat who knew how to use the power of the US," said Granic, who was foreign minister from 1993 until 2000.

And Hashim Thaci, the former guerrilla leader who is now Kosovo's prime minister, said the territory had lost an important friend who had always defended Pristina's interests.

In a twist of fate, Holbrooke died almost 15 years to the day since the signing of the Dayton accords on December 14, 1995.

European Union foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton praised Holbrooke as a "remarkable man, a true diplomat and a champion of peace and reconciliation, not just in Pakistan and Afghanistan, but throughout the world."

Canadian Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon said Canada had lost a friend and "an inspiration to us all."

US removes saccharin from hazards list

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US government yesterday removed the artificial sweetener saccharin, long believed to be a potential cancer-causing substance found in diet drinks and chewing gum, from its list of hazardous substances.

The Environmental Protection Agency said the decision was made after scientific studies found the white powdery substance that is 300 times sweeter than sugar "is no longer considered a potential hazard to human health."

Saccharin, which is often seen in pink packets of Sweet 'N Low and has no calories, was added to the list in 1981 due to fears it caused bladder

US indicts Dutchwoman, 17 other rebels on terror charges

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States indicted Dutchwoman Tanja Nijmeijer and 17 other members of Colombia's FARC rebel group yesterday on terrorism charges stemming from the kidnapping of US hostages, the Justice Department said.

The indictment charged that the group including Nijmeijer, who is believed to have joined the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in 2002 when she moved there, detained three Americans in brutal conditions in the jungle, at times transporting them across the border into Venezuela to avoid capture.

A federal grand jury slapped them with seven counts including hostage-taking, conspiracy to provide support to terrorists, and weapons charges stemming from their capture in 2003 of Americans Marc Gonsalves, Keith Stansell and Thomas Howes

when their reconnaissance plane crash-landed in the Colombian jungle.

The plane's American pilot and a Colombian national on-board were immediately executed by the FARC, and four of the Colombian defendants face the extra charge of premeditated murder in the death of the US national, the statement said.

The Americans were among several hostages including French-Colombian Ingrid Betancourt, a former Colombian presidential candidate, rescued in a daring raid by Colombian military forces in July, 2008.

"We will not tire in our pursuit of all those responsible for this crime," Assistant Attorney General David Kris said in a statement announcing the indictment.

US Attorney Ronald Machen said the indictment "demonstrates our firm resolve to bring to justice every last FARC commander who played any part in this brutal act of terrorism."

If caught and convicted, each defendant would face up to 60 years in prison, the maximum allowed under Colombian law for nationals extradited to the United States. The four charged with murder face an additional 60 years behind bars, the Justice Department said.

Nijmeijer, a 32-year-old former schoolteacher who goes by the code-name "Alexandra," is believed to have served as personal assistant to Jorge Briceño, a top FARC commander who was killed in a September government raid on his hideout.

According to Colombian authorities, Nijmeijer is the only European fighting with the FARC, Latin America's longest-running insurgency.

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Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green www.people-self-development.com

Get Organized!... part II.

Yesterday we explored the topic of getting your life in order through organizing. Today I want to conclude the article with the following bits of information I believe will be helpful to you.

You know, being well organized takes lots of time and effort and there is a lot to remember. Here are some good tips to help you to remember it all:

1. Jot it down. With the many details that you have to remember in any given day, why should you try to keep it all in a memory bank? At the very moment that you remember something needs to be done, the very best thing to do is write it down. Then, just as you need to recall it, it will be there for you in an instant. I do this constantly. I keep my pocket agenda with me all the time for this very purpose.

2. Keep it all in one place. Once you have developed the knack of writing everything down, your next step will be to keep your writing all in one place. You will remember better this way. Otherwise, you are going to spend valuable time searching for your notes.

3. Stay healthy. A keen memory is a well-nourished mind. Eat healthy; get plenty of rest and lots of good exercise. These will all see you through to having a good memory, staying focused and being alert. Don't worry about your friends who may be running around like frantic people doing this, that and the other...just take it easy and do what you know you can easily handle. That we you stay healthy and with minimum or no stress.

4. Be confident in yourself. If you keep saying you have a bad memory, you will probably continue to have a bad memory. It is important to have a motivated, I CAN remember attitude.

5. Use sticky notes. Those wonderful, little sticky notes are the next best thing to sliced bread! They are amazing as memory helpers. Want to remember something prior to leaving your home? Just mark it down on a Post-It Note and stick it to the inside of your door. The bright, neon colors will be great to catch your eye as you are leaving. You will not likely miss it! Need to make an urgent call first thing in the morning? Leave a Post-It Note on your telephone.

6. Clean up the Mess Around You: De-Clutter!

Now that you have a good system to remember your tasks at hand, the next big step will be to get rid of clutter. Clutter diminishes a smile, dampens the spirit, and so should not be tolerated. It invariably cramps your imagination and hinders your creativity.

It is very easy to find any given room in a cluttered mess, but it takes some hard work to de-clutter and organize that room.

Many people say that one of their favorite things to do when stressed out is to clean! Hard to imagine, right? Well, it is true. Cleaning gives order and purpose to your life, even if only in smaller chunks at a time.

We are not just talking about moving around clutter from one shelf to another. We are talking about de-cluttering every room of your home. Say good-bye to the dust, say good-bye to the junk – say hello to a room to breathe and move around! Now, doesn't that sound delightful?

Start out by drawing up a list of what you absolutely want done. Think about those leaning tower of Pisa news papers in the room, and then move slowly into the living room. See any piles of old photos just crying out to be placed

in a photo album? Write that one down. How about those piles of clothing sitting in the bottom of your daughters closet just waiting for a mother's touch. Write that one down, too!

By now, if you are clever, you see a list of very workable, one-at-a-time chores that can be assigned throughout a busy day. The idea is to get started and work your way around. By the end of the day, you will have a beautiful, uncluttered home as your reward!

In Dutch we have a nice saying I like to use:opgeruimd staat netjes! That means, neatness is really nice and it looks so good.

Do not become discouraged if your attempt to enlist your husband or wife and children fails. Just write them down on your list as those who need an attitude adjustment and then save that chore for some other time. Who knows you might even succeed at changing them!

If you are altogether frank about it, you really do not want a second pair of meddling hands anyway; some chores are best left to only one pair of hands. That way you can be sure that the chores will be done right the first time.

You know, there is an emotional benefit to gain from cleaning up the clutter around you! Comfort and clutter cannot co-exist. Clutter and mess only serves to bring unbalance and will dampen any good spirit. It stands to reason that, give up the clutter and bring in the peace of mind. A de-cluttered life will be more productive, more joyful, and a whole lot more free.

If you really want to organize...then here you have it!

Cleaning up and de-cluttering your life will open space for you to receive the support and comfort that you need in life. You know, God is also keenly interested in the cleaning up business. He enjoys being allowed into people's lives and cleaning up their lives from all the mess that sin creates. Invite Him in and experience His majestic cleaning and newness of life.

Write to me, if this article has been in anyway helpful. ...themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com.



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Government measures intensified to combat dengue

ORANJESTAD, The Aruban government is dead serious about their intent on eradicating the potentially deadly Dengue disease, which is now plaguing the island as a result of the recent heavy rainfall. Several months ago, a number of actions were enacted to address the Dengue situation. Together with the PAHO, local experts have joined forces for finding the best possible way to handle the problem.

Minister of health, Dr. Richard Visser, wants to be certain that our hospital and the IMSAN (San Nicolaas Medical Center) are on the same wave length as to the management of the Dengue threat. On more than one occasion help was solicited and received from experts at the PAHO (Pan American Health Organization), who provided courses on the Dengue situation to personnel of the Department of Health and the GKMB (Yellow Fever Eradication Force). In addition to courses to public health employees, two seminars were offered to all medical practitioners to bring them abreast of the latest developments regarding Dengue.

Recently a "Dengue Outbreak Team" was installed to supervise all efforts geared to combating the potential spread of the disease. Through the use of information programs which are believed will help our people become more responsible and eliminate all areas which could be harvesting the Dengue carrying mosquitoes. Doctors are urged to be diligent in reporting all suspicious cases.

The recent heavy rainfall has certainly not been in our favor in helping us get rid of

mosquito breeding areas. For this reason the Minister instituted a so-called "Swipe Team" whose job it is to move into the barrios to physically control and insist that everyone cooperate by eliminating all potential breeding areas, and to fine those who fail to comply. Still another action was undertaken, and that was to spray the entire island to eliminate all existing mosquitoes.

The Department of Public Health has prepared a national campaign, the "Plan Nacional di Dengue" in which everyone employed in the health sector, will know exactly how to deal with the Dengue disease. The Hospital has their own specific protocol for all health providers on all levels on how exactly to handle any one presenting with the disease or its symptoms.

Regrettably, all these measures combined cannot be sufficient to avoid the disease. Every member of the community must work together and conscientiously and meticulously work to eliminate all mosquito breeding areas in and around their homes. A very important seminar is scheduled for December 15 at 3PM for all doctors to be held in San Nicolaas at the INSAM center. The government wants to make dead sure that every health provider knows exactly how to recognize the Dengue symptoms and that everyone will be on the same frequency in terms of how to treat patients who present with Dengue or its symptoms and/or attending complications. Aruba has now experienced the type 4 Dengue, while all of the other types are also upon us.



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RBC declares December 'Water Awareness' month in the Caribbean



PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad and Tobago — RBC announced today that, across the Caribbean, "water awareness" month is being observed during the month of December.

In response to the need for clean, fresh water in the Caribbean, which has become even more critical following the passage of Hurricane Tomas, RBC has announced a contribution of CAD\$50,000

to the Red Cross to assist with water sanitation activities in the islands impacted by Tomas.

"We have a long-standing tradition of responding when communities are in need, and we are proud to support this initiative," said Suresh Sookoo,

CEO of RBC's Caribbean Banking division. "RBC will continue to review opportunities to provide additional funding for water-related projects

in the Caribbean through our Blue Water Project".

The RBC Blue Water Project is a 10-year, \$50 million philanthropic commitment to supporting organizations that protect watersheds and ensure access to clean drinking water. Since 2007, more than CAD\$27 million has been pledged to 350 projects around the world and more than one million dollars has been donated to initiatives in the Caribbean.

During the month of December, RBC will also distribute wall calendars across the Caribbean to promote responsible water usage among their clients and employees throughout the region. Themed "Create a Blue Water Future", the calendars couple vivid imagery with simple tips for helping us to all use water wisely and improving the region's overall water efficiency.

"This 2011 calendar focuses on our every day dependence on this precious natural resource. It celebrates the importance of water and recognises ways we can make a difference as water stewards," said Sookoo.

RBC has one of the most expansive banking networks in the Caribbean with a presence in 20 countries and territories across the region, 129 combined branches and close to 7,000 employees serving more than 1.6 million clients.

For further information on the RBC Blue Water Project, please visit www.rbc.com.

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"Baccanal" magazine officially presented to Minister of culture



ORANJESTAD — Recently, Chibi van der Hans officially presented the first copy of next year's edition of the popular Carnival magazine "Baccanal" to Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar.

As usual, the magazine showcases Carnival events of the past years with historical commentary of its place in the annual celebration's 57 year history. It provides a complete calendar for the Carnival 2011 season, allowing readers to keep up with all the exciting

events and a road map of all the parades. The magazine is available for FREE at many establishments on the island. It will also be distributed by ATA offices abroad.

Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar congratulated Mr. Van der Hans for producing another beautiful publication and thanked him for his dedication in documenting Aruba's Carnival through his magazine.

Photos show moments of the official presentation of "Baccanal."




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Arikok Accord signed during first Aruba/Curacao/St. Maarten Summit



The dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles on 10/10/10 paved the way for an historic meeting of regional leaders on Friday, December 10. Aruba's Prime Minister Mike Eman welcomed to Aruba's Government House in Oranjestad the leaders of two new, autonomously ruled island nations in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Prime Minister of St. Maarten, Sarah Wescott-Williams and Prime Minister of Curacao, Gerrit Schotte. The three heads of government met for private conversa-

tion during the morning, then in the afternoon appeared before media at the visitors' center of the Arikok National Park to sign the Arikok Accord.

The Arikok Accord lays out a plan for the establishment of two commissions dedicated to drafting and proposing agreements between the three island nations on legal matters and strategic ploys to benefit them economically and socially.

Aruba maintained a number of legal agreements with Netherlands Antilles, which now must be renegotiated and

reestablished between the three islands; matters such as the shared Coast Guard and policing of the waters surrounding Aruba and Curacao, meteorological services and aviation control.

Prime Minister Schotte demonstrated particular interest in the cooperative plans to establish solidarity, respect sovereignty and promote sustainability on many levels. The idea of cooperative tourism, and perhaps the establishment of a "7 Days-7 Destinations" program, which would provide travelers the opportunity to sample other cultures and islands in close proximity to Aruba in Curacao, while the two neighboring islands would be the home base for such a venture, was mentioned.

The primary result of this first historic summit was an agreement of continued cooperation and development between the three new nations and the other former islands of the Netherlands Antilles, which chose to become full fledged principalities of the



Dutch Kingdom. It was agreed that future meetings should include the Prime Minister of The Netherlands. Another summit conference is planned in six

months; the location as yet undecided, possibly Curacao, depending on the agendas of the participants.

by Rosalie Klein

Sci-Tech

Taiwan scientists claim microchip 'breakthrough'

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwanese scientists on Tuesday unveiled an advanced microchip technology which they claimed marks a breakthrough in piling ever more memory into ever smaller spaces.

The scientists said they had succeeded in producing a circuit measuring just nine nanometres across -- one nanometre is equal to one billionth of a metre.

"Researchers used to believe that 20 nanometres was the limit for microchip technologies," said Ho Chia-hua, who heads the team behind the project at the state-run

National Nano Device Laboratories.

A chip using the new memory technology has about 20 times the storage capacity of memory units now available on the market and consumes just one 200th of the electricity, the scientists said.

The benefits of greater memory and reduced electricity consumption are highly sought in the manufacture of electronic gadgets like smart phones and tablet computers.

Using such technology, a chip the size of one square centimetre will be capable of

storing one million pictures or 100 hours of 3D movies, said Yang Fu-liang, the director general of the Laboratories.

However, Nobunaga Chai, an analyst of the Taipei-based electronics market research unit Digitimes, said it would be some time before anyone could start making money on the technology.

"I'm afraid it will take several years before the advanced technology can be turned into commercial use," he told AFP.

Taiwan is among the top four microchip producers in the world.

ThumbDrive inventor out to prove he is no one-hit wonder

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Henn Tan could have ruled the global market in what became the ubiquitous USB flash drive that helped consign the floppy disk to the dustbin of technological history.

But his grip on the ThumbDrive slipped and the market was flooded with a myriad of brands for the handy memory device which could be small enough to dangle on a key ring.

Now the Singaporean entrepreneur hopes to prove he was no one-hit wonder.

Tan, who holds the patent for the compact data storage device in over 30 markets and the global trademark for the ThumbDrive brand, now has a firmer hold on another invention with a rather unusual name.

The FluCard -- a postage stamp-size storage device that can also transmit data wirelessly -- is Tan's new baby, and he hopes to see it used by millions of people; just like the USB drive.

Tan said many thought the ThumbDrive was a one-hit wonder.

"I told them no, but many refused to believe me," the 54-year-old told AFP.

"We are more than just about ThumbDrives and the power of this FluCard is going to be immense," insisted the chairman and chief executive of Trek 2000 International, which is listed on the Singapore Exchange.

Tan laments that he made a mistake with the ThumbDrive by going it alone instead of partnering with an established player in 2000, an



admittedly "naive" move that allowed rivals to get big slices of the USB-based data storage pie.

This time around, he has teamed up with Japan's Toshiba Corp to promote the FluCard and ensure its patent is protected globally.

Why the name?

"It's contagious and easy to recall," says Tan, a marketing man who employs technical experts to flesh out his ideas.

"You go to Afghanistan, you say flu, and they understand."

Marc Einstein, regional manager at technology consultancy Frost and Sullivan, said the FluCard is a sign of the convergence underway in consumer electronics and computer technology.

"I do think that this is where the future lies for technologies and consumer devices," he said, adding that securing Toshiba's support "is a good first step" for the Singapore firm.

Tan said his company and Toshiba, now the second largest shareholder in Trek 2000 International after him, formed a consortium of camera makers to adopt the FluCard as the industry standard.

Terence Wong, co-head of

research at Singapore brokerage DMG and Partners, sees good commercial prospects for the FluCard and also feels partnering Toshiba is a right move for Tan.

"This FluCard can potentially kill off the dummy SD card if they get it right," Wong told AFP.

Shaped exactly like the Secure Digital (SD) memory cards now used widely in compact digital cameras, the FluCard comes embedded with WiFi to transmit data to other wireless-enabled devices such as mobile phones, laptops and tablet computers.

"It can do more than what an ordinary dumb, dumb SD card can do which is just to store data," Tan said.

"As long as you have a hardware embedded with WiFi, you can download anything from the FluCard."

Launched earlier this year, the FluCard works in any device that has an SD slot and the camera market is the most obvious target for Tan.

SD cards are predominantly used in compact digital cameras, 100 million of which were sold in 2009 alone, according to industry estimates.

Using a FluCard in the digital camera the user has the option of uploading new photos directly to the Internet for sharing with friends on Facebook and other social networks.

It also functions as a data storage back-up since the content inside the FluCard can be instantly transferred to a private user account on a portal set up by Trek 2000 International.

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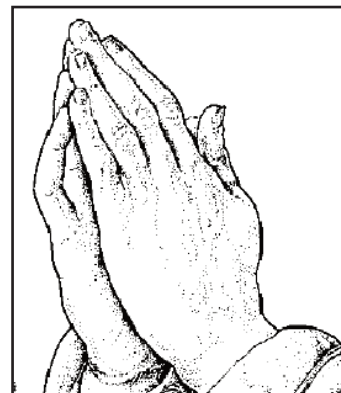
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Prayer relieves mind in many ways, study finds



sought him or her out. But unlike a flesh-and-blood shoulder to cry on or an abusive partner to rail at, God was available whenever and wherever the participant reached out, Sharp said.

For those who are not religious, Sharp said, the findings of the study may not apply unless they look to another "virtual" friend, such as a celebrity, in times of crises.

[Thinking of God Calms Believers, Stresses Atheists]

Prayer also served as a handy distraction for some, Sharp found. Folding one's hands and focusing on this conversation provided a reprieve from the anxiety of an abusive relationship.

Yet the consequences of prayer weren't always positive. "For some, through prayer they told me they learned to forgive their abusive partners, to let go of their anger and resentment," Sharp said. "But that's a double-edged sword. It's good for those who are out of that violent relationship to let go of it to a certain extent. But if they're still in their violent relationship, it may postpone their decision to leave, and that can be bad."

Religion is complicated

That double-edged sword highlights the complexity of religion and its effects. "Religion is often pointed to as a mostly positive or mostly negative thing. It's way more complicated than that," said Sharp, whose results are detailed in the current issue of the journal *Social Psychology Quarterly*.

Other research out this month shows that religious people are happier because of the social networks they build by attending religious services. Past research has shown that teen birth rates are higher in highly religious states, and another study suggested kids with religious parents are better behaved than others.

Getting on your knees and looking to the heavens may really bring comfort during tough times, new research finds.

This will come as no surprise to many Americans, as 75 percent say they pray on a weekly basis in order to manage hard situations, including illness, and emotions such as sadness and anger, according to the study researcher citing Pew Research Center data. And most Americans also think God is involved in their everyday lives and concerned with their personal well-being.

The new study aimed to find out how prayer leads to mental relief. Results suggested prayer can serve as a distraction and even as sort of a punching bag.

Always available

Lead researcher Shane Sharp, a graduate student studying sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, conducted in-depth interviews with 62 victims of violent relationships with intimate partners. Participants ranged in age from 19 to 72 (averaging 41) and represented a wide swath of the United States in geographic, educational and racial terms, with largely Christian backgrounds.

Results showed that in general that God or another figure from religion acted as a support system for the participants. The figure had certain perceived characteristics, such as being loving, powerful and caring, that influenced why participants

Health & Living

Uganda scrambling to identify new deadly disease

KAMPALA, Uganda (AFP) — Uganda is working "around the clock" with international health experts to identify an unprecedented illness that has killed 38 people in the north of the country, an official told AFP on Wednesday.

The unknown illness was first detected on November 10 in several districts in the central part of northern Uganda, according to a statement from the health ministry.

Local and foreign media reports had identified the illness as bubonic plague, which has previously struck Uganda,

West Nile region, much further west than the current outbreak.

The source added that plague victims suffer from inflammation in specific body parts, including the armpits, which has not happened in this case.

"The plague we've seen in the past also tends to cause fatalities among women and children, but all the dead here are adult men," the official also said.

The doctor said that while Uganda-based staff from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) were already working



most recently in 2008.

But an official from the ministry's Epidemiology and Surveillance Division working closely on the outbreak said Wednesday that the disease remained mysterious and evidence collected so far pointed away from bubonic plague.

"The results we have received from Fort Collins are negative for bubonic plague," the official, who requested anonymity, told AFP, referring to a specialized laboratory in the US state of Colorado.

"If this was typical plague, we would have found that out by now. We just haven't seen a disease like this before," he added.

The doctor explained that all previous incidents of plague in Uganda were contained in the

on the case, specialists from CDC headquarters in Atlanta were on their way to help identify the illness.

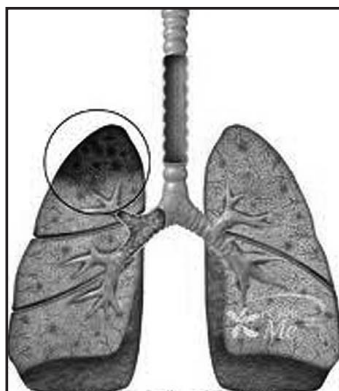
Staff from the World's Health Organization's Africa regional office in Brazzaville, Republic of Congo have also been sent to Uganda.

"We simply don't have the information to conclude what this disease is yet, but we are working around the clock, literally 24 hours," the official said.

Ugandan staff have developed a treatment that has so far halted the death toll at 38, according to the source.

The 91 confirmed patients reported severe headaches, dizziness, fever, diarrhea and vomiting, according to the health ministry.

WHO unveils radical new TB diagnosis machine



GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) — The World Health Organisation on Wednesday unveiled a new "while you wait" test for tuberculosis, that radically cuts down the testing time and detects drug resistant forms of the deadly lung disease.

The desktop computer-sized automated test machine produces results in 100 minutes instead of up to six weeks of laboratory testing for the TB bacteria, which infects about one-third of the world's population, according to the UN health agency.

The machine analyses a sample of the patient's spittle.

"What we are doing today at WHO is to endorse the use by countries of a new fully automated rapid test that detects quickly in one hour and 40 minutes tuberculosis and the most difficult forms of tuberculosis," said Mario Raviglione, head of the WHO's Stop TB programme.

"This test will transform and revolutionize the way we handle TB care and control," he added.

Raviglione underlined that it could detect hard to treat drug resistant forms and TB associated with HIV/AIDS.

Half a million HIV positive people die from TB each year, a quarter of all AIDS deaths, according to UNAIDS.

The WHO has high hopes of improving detection in developing countries, the hardest hit areas.

The number of cases of tuberculosis in the world stabilised last year, with 9.4 million new infections. About 1.7 million people died.

The UN health agency is trying to cut the death rate by half by 2015. It has warned that progress against the disease is far too slow.



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What's Good for Heart May Also Be Good for Brain

Sticking to a heart-healthy lifestyle may also ward off Alzheimer's disease, according to a new study that suggests that raising "good" cholesterol levels can help prevent the brain disorder in older people.

The study found that people who had low levels of high-density lipoprotein (HDL) or "good" cholesterol had a 60 percent greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease after the age of 65 than those who had high levels.

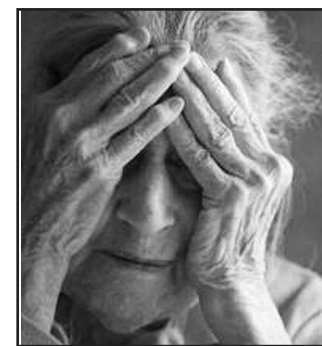
Cholesterol is a waxy substance composed of "good and bad" cholesterol and triglycerides found in the blood. "Ways to increase HDL levels include losing weight [if overweight], aerobic exercise and a healthy diet."

By treating problems with cholesterol levels, "we can lower the incidence of Alzheimer's disease in the population," said Reitz.

Some medications, such as statins, fibrates and niacin, that are used to lower "bad" cholesterol also raise "good" cholesterol, said Reitz, an assistant professor of neurology at Columbia University's Taub Institute for Research on Alzheimer's Disease in New York City.

Early-onset Alzheimer's, a rare form of the disease, begins in middle age and runs in families. Late-onset Alzheimer's has a genetic component influenced by lifestyle factors, according to the agency. There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, but a few drugs can help reduce symptoms for a time, according to experts.

However, people can cut their risk by reducing their in-



take of trans-fats and increasing monounsaturated fats that keep "good" cholesterol high and "bad" cholesterol low, said Reitz, noting that drinking moderate amounts of alcohol also helps. Foods high in monounsaturated fats include vegetable oils, avocados, peanut butter and many nuts and seeds.

Participants in the study also underwent a battery of tests measuring mental functions, such as memory, language processing, visual-spatial orientation and executive function.

During the study, 101 cases of Alzheimer's disease were identified, at an average age of 83 years.

One weakness of the research is that it was conducted among elderly residents of an urban community with a high prevalence of risk factors, such as obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, according to the study. The findings may not apply to a younger, healthier population.

"These results are important because they suggest that an increase in HDL cholesterol may also help ward off Alzheimer's disease," said Roe, a research assistant professor at the school's Knight Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

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"Cas Zuster Philothea" billboard unveiled at Santa Cruz



SANTA CRUZ – Recently, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Economic Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer- Winklaar, was invited to unveil a billboard for "Cas Zuster Philothea." It is a tribute to a person who dedicated many years of her life in helping others. Mrs. Alice van Romondt, representing the Minister, performed the honors of the unveiling. "Cas Zuster Philothea" is a home for the mentally challenged situated in Santa Cruz.

While Sister Philothea was in Holland she was approached by the ministry to write two guidebooks for Aruba titled "How to Work Successfully as a Volunteer" and "How to Create Funds." During the unveiling, she was presented with a gift of an artistic rendering of Aruba,

to remind her of our island after returning to Holland with a well deserved pension.

FCCA, Aruba's community housing project foundation, completely renovated the "Cas Zuster Philothea" and donated the billboard as a departing gift.

Sister Philothea has worked 39 years on Aruba. She was a pioneer in the care of the mentally challenged and dedicated all her time to improving their quality of life.



Sole Mare celebrates the season



Recently, Amazonia Churrascaria stayed open late to help celebrate Christmas and the end of a successful year with their colleagues of Sole Mare Ristorante Italiano.

Owner Mr. Juan Bocache invited his managers, supervisors and staff members to enjoy a sumptuous interactive meal at Amazonia Churrascaria, after hours, at the end of a busy Wednesday night.

The Italian crew enjoyed the food at Amazonia Churrascaria, sampling the Brazilian-style feast with great appreciation. Sole Mare Manager Michelle remarked that Sole Mare Ristorante Italiano and Amazonia Churrascaria maintain a great relationship by virtue of being neighbours on Palm Beach, and that the attention to detail and warm hospitality complemented the superb quality of the food and the festive ambiance.



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Good 4 the Neighborhood: Aruba Bank rewards community spirit among secondary schools



A packed auditorium shares the sense of accomplishment



Second place winners La Salle College fixes up Naptali Henriquez Park



Plan to beautify bus stops around the island



La Salle College plan for Naptali Henriquez park

Aruba Bank initiated an island-wide program for secondary school students called "Good 4 the Neighborhood." The project encouraged youth to examine their community and its needs, and to devise projects in response.

The initial phase required the submission of proposals by 10 student teams to be analyzed by panel of judges. The seven most viable were selected and the students received up to 5,000 Aruban florins from Aruba Bank to implement their plans.

Friday evening, December 10, the various schools presented their results, with videos and PowerPoint presentations of their work with "before and after" results, usually accompanied by creative drama and dance which was shared with a full auditorium of parents and teachers at Cas di Cultura in Oranjestad.

The team from Filomena College won 10,000 Aruban florins (\$5,570 U.S.) for their school for renovating the St. Teresita Center in San Nicolas.

Coming in second was La Salle College, which chose to give the Naptali Henriquez

Play Park a complete facelift. They received a 5,000 Aruban florin reward for their school, as did the third place winners, Maria College, which mounted a community campaign against graffiti that disfigures the neighborhood.

Other projects included St. Augustin students' plan to beautify Arubus kiosks with giant sculptures of island birds, while EPB students constructed tables in the shape of Aruba.

by Rosalie Klein



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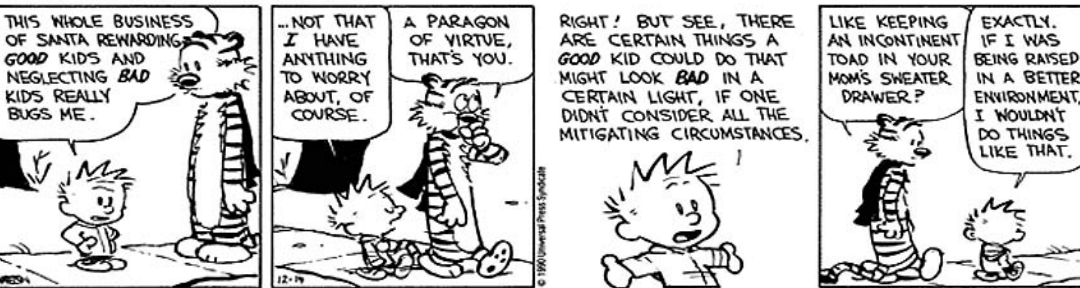
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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• BODY LANGUAGE •

ACROSS

1. Old money, in Seville
5. Gaze intently
10. Destructive
15. Secreted
18. Aches
19. Apiarist's product
20. Rocket's upper stage
21. Crude metal
22. Humble oneself
25. Tennis shot
26. Wipes out
27. Spanish aunt
28. Les ____-Unis
29. Writer Ferber
30. Dole out
31. ____ Aviv
33. Scatter water
35. Legal right
36. Florida county
38. Lucille Ball feature
40. Articulate
42. Polynesian
44. Glaciarium stuff
45. Ye ____ Shoppe
46. British dessert
49. ____ Jacinto

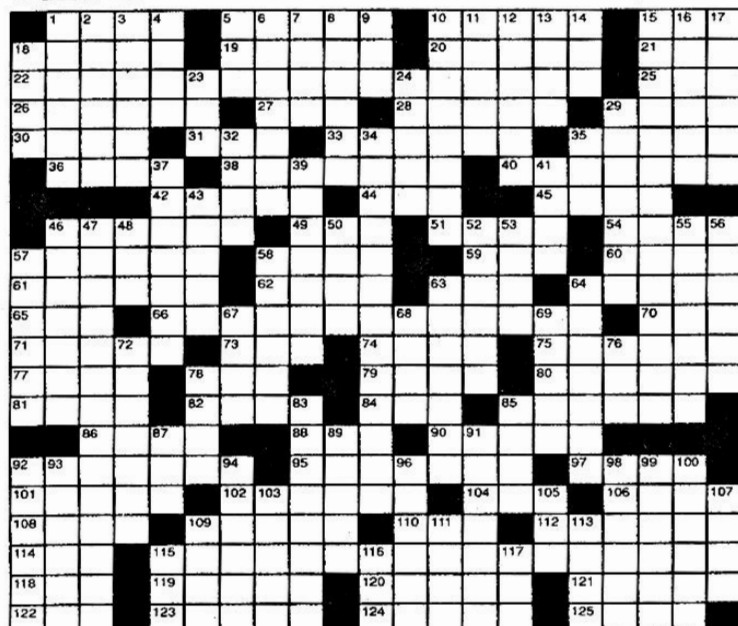
DOWN

51. Division: abbr.
54. Doctrines
57. A ____ (from cause to effect)
58. Aesthetic prefix
59. Neck style
60. The thing there
61. Trojan hero
62. Nee
63. Agent: abbr.
64. Singer Della
65. Depart
66. Control
70. One ____ time
71. Importune
73. Regret
74. Clue
75. Dodged
77. Merit
78. Ocean: abbr.
79. Time periods
80. Comes again
81. Bridle
82. Pismires
84. Seine
85. WWII GI's posters
86. Void

88. Lemon meringue, for one
90. In the middle of
92. Bareheaded
95. Pointed at
97. Incise
101. Frome
102. Impresario Sol et al.
104. English money: abbr.
106. Husband of Jezebel
108. Pun or gang ender
109. Greek physician
110. Airport info
112. Eritrean city
114. Gratuity
115. Relieves someone of
118. Silkworm
119. Fragrant resin
120. Fencing thrust
121. Pond plants
122. Female ruff
123. Emulate the Pied Piper
124. Strange
125. Rock's Bee ____

DOWN

1. Came down in torrents
2. Printing mistakes
3. Felt
4. Bone: prefix



5. "Ain't ____ Sweet"
6. Horn blower
7. One against
8. Work up anew
9. Inspect
10. Managed as an agent, once
11. Moslem leaders
12. Cut molars
13. Donkeys: Fr.
14. Grouse's mating dance
15. Stand proud
16. Bitterly humorous
17. Argue
18. Staunch
23. White House monogram
24. Memento
29. Learned
32. God of love
34. Pest
35. Money: abbr.
37. Jewel
39. Get ready for bed
41. Memo
43. Emerge
46. Rings of color
47. Have a ____ (be meddlesome)
48. Digit
50. Give it ____
52. Meets
53. Melon
55. Golf tournament
56. Lieus
57. Coddle
58. Kidnap
63. Scotto and Tebaldi
64. Retaliation
67. Island off Ireland
68. Take on
69. Canary's relative
72. Forming a ring
76. With a needle: prefix
78. Cronies
83. Extra pair
85. Seed carriers
87. Author Deighton
89. Image: prefix
91. Hodgepodge
92. ____ Prynn
93. Cloth
94. Salt dispenser
96. Serviceable
98. Mexican food
99. Alter
100. ____ nails
103. Moslem scholars
105. Trial men: abbr.
107. Low
109. Storm
111. Tennille
113. Kind of rug
115. Spread hay
116. Miami's state: abbr.
117. Poetic contraction

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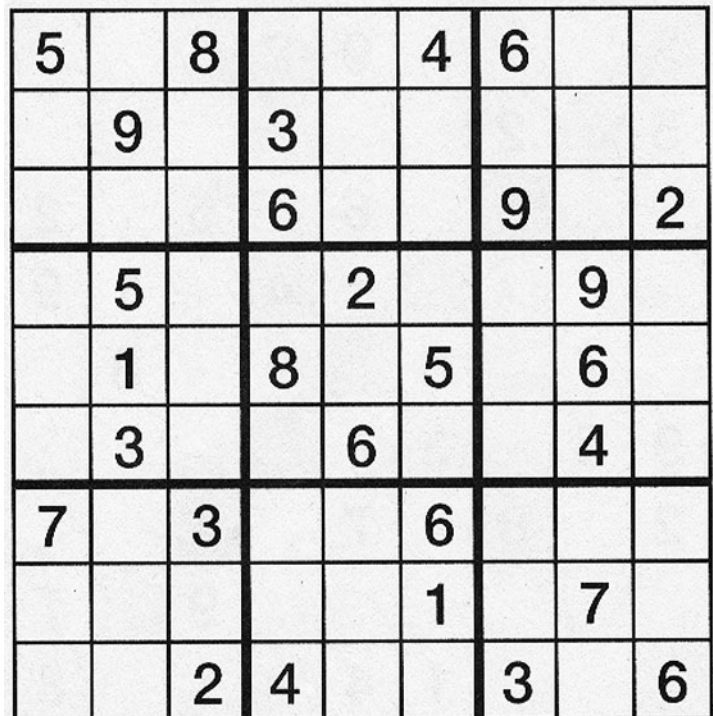
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	5	8	2	6	7	2	8	1
8	2	1	9	5	3	9	6	7
6	7	1	9	8	5	3	7	2
9	7	2	6	9	1	2	8	5
8	9	2	9	7	8	6	1	2
1	6	8	3	2	7	9	9	7
2	1	6	8	9	9	7	2	8
7	8	9	2	2	8	1	6	9
2	8	9	7	1	6	8	2	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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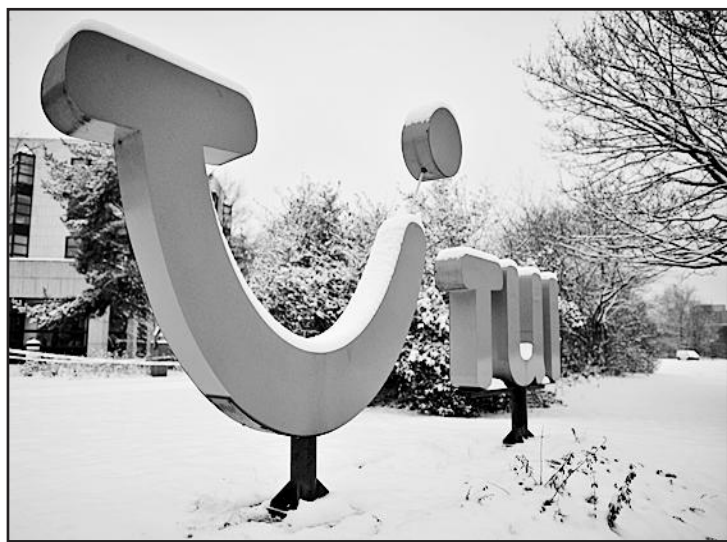
Obama talks philanthropy with Gates, Buffett

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US President Barack Obama hosted America's two richest men yesterday -- Bill Gates and Warren Buffett -- to swap notes on giving away wealth, economic growth and investing in education.

Obama invited the Microsoft co-founder and his wife Melinda and the billionaire financier to discuss their "Giving Pledge," an initiative

encouraging the wealthy to commit to disposing of most of their wealth through philanthropy.

A White House official said that the Oval Office visit also touched on ideas for "growing the economy and making America more competitive, including investment in education to better prepare the next generation."



HANNOVER, Germany -- The partly snow-covered logo of German group TUI, one of Europe's leading tourism operators, is pictured in front of the company's headquarters in Hanover, as TUI announced that 2009/10 net profit fell by 40.3 percent from the previous year owing to an unfavourable comparison effect. On the operating level, TUI made a profit of 640 million euros in its tourism division, which is set to become its sole activity in the future.

AFP PHOTO



GENEVA, Switzerland -- International Air Transport Association (IATA) Director General Giovanni Bisignani is seen speaking under a giant screen during a press conference in Geneva yesterday. Industry association IATA raised its forecast for airline earnings in 2010 to a record 15.1 billion dollars from 8.9 billion dollars as economic conditions improved.

AFP PHOTO

Athens crippled by anti-austerity protest

ATHENS, Greece (AFP) - Hundreds of unionists protested in Athens yesterday against proposed wage cuts in Greece's inefficient public utility services as a transport strike sparked huge traffic snarl-ups in the capital.

The protesters gathered in front of the Greek parliament as the chamber discussed salary cuts of up to 25 percent for utility staff earning more than 1,800 euros (2,387 dollars) a month, as well as layoffs.

They rallied behind a large banner reading "Strike until final victory."

"We cannot take any more (austerity)" read another banner.

Several hundred police officers and coastguards, whose wages were targeted in a previous wave of cuts, staged a



Demonstrators protest outside the Greek parliament in Athens. (AFP PHOTO)

separate demonstration later in the day.

"Your profits cost human lives," read a banner held up by uniformed security staff, some of them standing under a crossed-out emblem of the In-

ternational Monetary Fund, which is participating in an unpopular Greek debt rescue.

A full-blown general strike against the Socialist government's desperate debt-slashing measures will be held today.

Fed holds spending plan amid slow recovery

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The US Federal Reserve yesterday held interest rates near zero as expected, saying the economic recovery was too weak to reduce high unemployment, and left its massive spending plan intact.

"Information received since the Federal Open Market Committee met in November confirms that the economic recovery is continuing, though at a rate that has been insufficient to bring down unemployment," the FOMC said in a statement at the end of the panel's final meeting of the year.

As widely expected, the central bank left its key federal

funds rate target between zero and 0.25 percent, where it has been since December 2009 in a bid to support recovery from the Great Recession.

The panel "continues to anticipate that economic conditions, including low rates of resource utilization, subdued inflation trends, and stable inflation expectations, are likely to warrant exceptionally low levels for the federal funds rate for an extended period," it said.

The Fed noted "disappointingly slow" progress toward reaching the goals of its mandate to foster maximum unemployment and price stability, with underlying inflation ho-

vering at a "somewhat low" level.

The conditions warrant the continuation of a 600-billion-dollar program of bond purchases announced at the last FOMC meeting in early November, as well as reinvesting in its securities holdings, the policymakers said.

"To promote a stronger pace of economic recovery and to help ensure that inflation, over time, is at levels consistent with its mandate, the committee decided today to continue expanding its holdings of securities as announced in November.

Fiat says it will invest 1.3-billion euros in Brazil plant

MILAN, Italy (AFP) - The Italian auto group Fiat said yesterday it would invest 1.3 billion euros (1.7 billion dollars) to build a new plant in the state of Pernambuco in north-east Brazil.

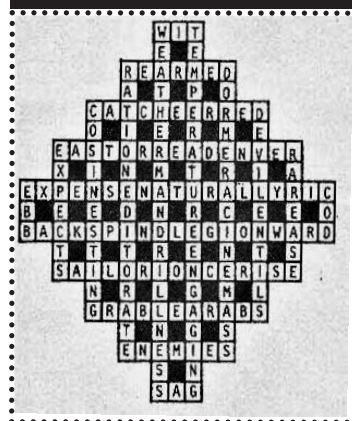
The investment is part of the company's 2011-2014 strategic plan that calls for expenditure of a total of 4.4 billion euros in Brazil, where it says it has been the country's

leading auto maker for the last nine years.

The new plant will turn out around 200,000 vehicles a year and will provide jobs for 3,500 people, Fiat said.

"Brazil, where by 2014 we want to be selling more than a million vehicles a year, is a strategic zone in our expansion plans," Fiat chief executive Sergio Marchionne said.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef



Keshi Yena with plantains, vegetables and pica

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban restaurant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cuisine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season and Mama Luisa was in the mood to prepare.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

Gold Coast Aruba: This is the time to invest

Managers of Gold Coast Aruba, the island's newest and most innovative gated community, report that sales are picking up nicely as the global economy begins to recover and those with a bit of disposal income are looking to invest in a sure thing. Gold Coast Directing Manager Fito Croes has noticed a surprising percentage of owners are barely using the villas or town homes they purchase, but taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," he remarked, "but I am gratified by how many are buying because they felt secure with real estate investment on Aruba. They really study the history and economy of the island and are impressed with the political stability and continually increasing value of prime locations. Gold Coast is in the heart of Malmok, considered Aruba's most exclusive community; in this area, the value of properties has only increased over time. It is minutes to the best beaches and all the action, and yet offers a quiet and secluded getaway; we are very pleased by the response to our concept."

Fito, with his sister Mayrin and brother Rudy run Cas Bon, which has been constructing homes and building developments for all budgets for nearly twenty years. "Gold Coast Aruba is the jewel in our crown," observes Fito. "We were very excited about this project; the scope and amenities. We talked to countless island visitors to find out what they would really want in a permanent residence on Aruba, and took from there."



Input from frequent vacationers who dreamed of their own home in Aruba will eventually be a community of 260 town homes, villas and condominiums with a stunning clubhouse complemented by two additional pools decks, one of which has been open for a year, the other will be ready for the holidays 2010. They expect the clubhouse to be ready for the community with a workout room and specta-

homes. An elegant and chic standard package is available, or island designers will assist owners in finishing the décor to their specific tastes.

There are many aspects to purchasing property; not the least is the future value of the investment. To further enhance this, Gold Coast managers have inaugurated a number of in-house services and are now negotiating with Interval International to pro-



vide a huge international pool for investors to tap for renters either short or long term. Property exchange for a vacation in another destination will also be available. Gold Coast's own rental services have also proven highly successful in assisting owners in renting their villas; 24-hour security and maintenance services also tip the scales when it is time to make a decision. Aside from all this, housekeeping, babysitting and catering services are also available for community members as well as airport pick-up and drop-off and pre-shopping services so cupboards and refrigerators are stocked upon arrival, which can all be arranged through their home management department.

The design of the structures is open, airy and spacious, fully deploying the island environment, with the finest quality construction and finishing available. Partnering with two of Aruba's top providers of kitchens and bathrooms enables developers to offer custom options for clients, so buyers can individualize their

Visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com for more details and availability or call 586-2200 to arrange a personal tour.



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Apple accused of selling pirated Japan novels online

TOKYO, Japan (AFP) – Publishers in Japan demanded yesterday that Apple stop selling pirated digital copies of novels by Japanese authors, including Haruki Murakami's "1Q84", in its online book store.

"We have no choice but to deem it illegal that Apple Inc. distributes materials which clearly violate copyright," a consortium of Japanese book publishers said in a statement sent to Apple's Japanese subsidiary.

It said that Apple's App Store had distributed pirated digital editions of works by famous Japanese authors including Murakami and Keigo Higashino.

"Some of the works have been deleted in response to requests from authors and publishers but a majority of them continue to be illegally distributed," the statement said.

The consortium includes the Japan Book Publishers Association, the Japan Magazine Publishers Association, the Electronic Book Publishers Association of Japan, and the Digital Comic Association.

It called on Apple to set up a section to handle requests for deletion of pirated copies and to fight digital piracy.

"We would rather sit at the same table with Apple and work together to set new rules in the era of digital networks," the statement said. "We strongly request that Apple take responsible action."

Apple Japan said in a comment issued to Japanese media: "We fully understand the importance of intellectual property including copyright."

"We will promptly and appropriately respond to complaints about violation of copyright."

The App Store sells digital books that can be viewed on Apple's popular iPhone and iPad mobile devices, among other digital content.

Murakami, 61, has often been mentioned as a Nobel literature prize contender, and his novels have drawn international acclaim.

His works have been translated into almost 40 languages, include the titles "Norwegian Wood," "Kafka on the Shore" and "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle."

The first two volumes of his three-volume "1Q84" were released in Japan in May 2009 and became instant bestsellers there.

Wham win most annoying Xmas song award with 'Last Christmas'

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AFP) – British pop group Wham!'s 1984 hit single "Last Christmas" was voted most annoying Christmas song in a poll in Bulgaria, beating Mariah Carey's "All I want for Christmas," organisers said.

A total of 28,110 Bulgarians said the Wham! hit was the song they least wanted to hear this year in the ballot on the campaign's website www.nohohoho.org.

"Every song gets disgusting when you hear it for the 172,395th time," one voter, Bambi, commented.

"I think these songs are the reason for Christmas depressions and suicides," added another pollster, Yordan Stamenov.

Not everyone agreed.

"This campaign is imbecile. It is these songs that make Christmas," said another pollster, Sasho.

Despite the vote, the two picks were listed by the website www.gigwise.com as the most downloaded Christmas songs this year, judging by figures collected by OVI music store.

Oprah appoints herself Australian 'ambassador'



SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) – US talk-show legend Oprah Winfrey yesterday named herself Australia's new global ambassador, saying her much-touted visit Down Under would reap huge rewards for the country's image and tourism coffers.

Winfrey, recording episodes outside the United States for the first time in her show's 24-year history, said her visit with more than 300 US audience members would mean massive publicity for the huge nation.

"I have named myself an unofficial ambassador for Australia and I have the biggest mouth on earth," she said ahead of taping two star-studded episodes of her show before thousands of fans outside Sydney's iconic landmark, newly dubbed the "Oprah House".

"I know that there's a lot of talk and concern in this country as to what this will mean for Tourism Australia," she told reporters as 6,000 fans waited for Winfrey and guests such as rapper Jay-Z and Bon Jovi to come on stage.

"Let me just tell you -- this is the truth: It is immeasurable what four hours of a love festival about your country, broadcast in 145 countries around the world, can do," she said, referring to her legendary selling power.

After years in the spotlight, she said she had never seen anything like the reception she had received in Australia -- from the thousands cheering her in Melbourne in a welcome not seen since Princess Diana visited in the 1980s, to the 'O' lighting up the Sydney Harbour Bridge during her stay.

"What I know for sure is that what will happen is that people... who had never even thought about Australia, didn't know where it was... will have the seed planted in their hearts," she said.

Winfrey, 56, said her show had been a wonderful phenomenon but the time to end it had come, and while there would be "ugly tears" at the final taping, she had no regrets.

Spanish flamenco star Enrique Morente dead at 67

MADRID, Spain (AFP) – One of Spain's leading flamenco singers, Enrique Morente, died Monday at a Madrid hospital where he had been in coma following an operation for an ulcer, his family said. He was 67.

"After several days of a tough struggle against death, Enrique Morente, a unique performer and a wonderful person, has left an enormous void in our hearts and in the world of music, to which he devoted himself entirely and with delivery throughout his life," his family said in a statement.

Morente had been in a coma since he underwent emergency surgery at La Luz private hospital on December 6, just two days after having the ulcer operation.

Earlier on Monday his family had said the singer had been diagnosed as brain dead although his vital signs were stable.

Criticised by some of his peers for having played with musicians from other musical



styles, his admirers hail his constant efforts to modernise the centuries-old musical style that has come to represent Spain.

Born December 25, 1942 in the gypsy quarter of Granada in southern Spain, he learned flamenco from his family and other performers in the city before moving to Madrid at the age of 18 to start his career as a professional singer.

He released 20 albums over a career spanning four decades, according to his official web site. The first, "Cante Flamenco," was released in 1967.

Morente had been working

on a new album titled "El barbero de Picasso," or "Picasso's Barber," a tribute to the great Spanish painter born in Malaga.

He often repeated that flamenco required a flawless technique and he adopted flamenco works by Spanish poets such as Federico Garcia Lorca and Antonio Machado.

Culture Minister Angeles Gonzalez-Sinde said he "opened different public to flamenco like no one else and was very knowledgeable about our poetry, both the classics as well as the contemporary poetry."

Morente was the first flamenco artist to receive the culture ministry's National Music Award, in 1994.

He was married to the dancer Aurora Carbonell and has three daughters, one of them the popular flamenco singer Estrella Morente who was chosen by Oscar-winning Spanish director Pedro Almodovar to interpret the main theme of his 2006 film "Volver".

Wilson's pickoff return touchdown lifts Ravens to win

HOUSTON (AFP) - Josh Wilson intercepted a pass from Houston's Matt Schaub and returned it 12 yards for the winning touchdown to give Baltimore a 34-28 NFL over-time triumph over the Texans on Monday night.

Haloti Ngata, a defensive tackle with Tongan ancestry, rushed up the middle to pressure Schaub before he launched his 62nd throw of the game, which went into the hands of Wilson, who ran untouched into the end zone for a Ravens' victory.

"The ball and the end zone. That's all I saw," Wilson said. "For the defense to come up with a play like that to end it, it feels great."

Wilson's touchdown was the first pickoff return run-back to decide an NFL over-time game since 2005.

It gave the Ravens a 9-4 record, pulling Baltimore within one game of pace-setter Pittsburgh in the AFC North division and matching the New York Jets for the top record in the chase for AFC wild-card playoff berths.

For the Texans, who slipped to 5-8, it ended their playoff dreams and gave them a dubious NFL record, having rallied from 14 points behind in the fourth quarter only to lose.



Schaub connected with Jacoby Jones on a seven-yard touchdown pass with six minutes remaining, capping a 99-yard march to lift the Texans within 28-20.

Schaub found Andre Johnson for their second touchdown connection of the game on a five-yard play with 21 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter and then flipped a two-point conversion pass to Jones to pull

Houston level at 28-28.

Baltimore's David Reed had escaped four tackle attempts and returned the second-half kickoff 103 yards, the longest kick return in team history, to give the Ravens a 28-7 lead only 15 seconds into the third quarter.

Only in 1997 against Pittsburgh have the Ravens ever squandered a 21-point lead and lost.

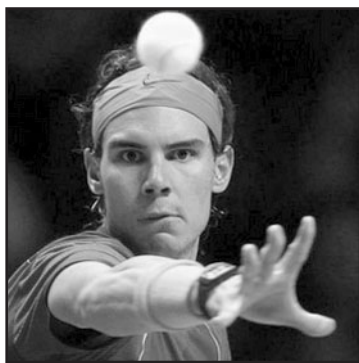
Neil Rackers answered with field goals of 24 and 42 yards for the Texans in the third quarter, pulling Houston within 28-13, setting the stage for the remarkable fourth-quarter comeback by the hosts.

Derrick Mason hauled in touchdown passes of nine and 26 yards from Joe Flacco in the second quarter only 3:46 apart to give the Ravens a 21-0 lead late in the second quarter.

But Schaub answered for Houston, connecting with Johnson on a 46-yard touchdown pass play with 42 seconds remaining in the second quarter to pull the Texans within 21-7 at halftime.

Baltimore's Willis McGahee reached the end zone on a one-yard run 11:43 into the game to open the scoring.

Nadal and Wozniacki named 2010 ITF World Champions



Nadal (L), Wozniacki (R)

PARIS (AFP) - Rafael Nadal and Caroline Wozniacki are the International Tennis Federation's World Champions for 2010.

It is the second time that Spaniard Nadal has taken the honour, while Wozniacki becomes the first Danish player to receive a senior ITF award.

American twins Bob and Mike Bryan were named men's doubles World Champions for a record seventh occasion, while Gisela Dulko of Argentina and Flavia Pennetta of Italy become women's doubles World Champions for the first time.

Nadal became only the



seventh man in history to win a career Grand Slam when he won the US Open title in September.

The 24-year-old also captured his fifth French Open title and second Wimbledon crown to regain the year-end number one ranking from Roger Federer.

With an Olympic gold medal and two Davis Cup titles to his name, the Spaniard has now won all of tennis's major prizes.

Nadal said: "It is an honour to be named ITF World Champion for the second time. After a difficult year in 2009, it was an amazing feel-

ing to regain the No. 1 ranking and finally win the US Open.

"My goal all the time is to keep improving and be a better player each year than I was the previous year."

Wozniacki became the fourth-youngest woman after Martina Hingis, Monica Seles and Steffi Graf to earn the year-end number one ranking.

The 20-year-old was the most consistent player on the circuit, earning a tour-high six titles, in Ponte Vedra, Copenhagen, Montreal, New Haven, Tokyo and Beijing.

Wozniacki said: "What an honour it is to be named ITF World Champion. To be listed with all the former ITF World Champions is something I am really proud of. I had a great year in 2010 and I'm training hard to have an even better year in 2011."

In other ITF awards, Youth Olympic champions Juan Sebastian Gomez of Colombia and Daria Gavrilova of Russia were named as Junior World Champions.



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Appleby named PGA Comeback Player of the Year



PONTE VEDRA BEACH (AFP) - Australian Stuart Appleby was named the US PGA Tour Comeback Player of the Year on Monday after bouncing back from the worst season of his career to make golf history.

Appleby, who turns 40 in May, fired a final-round 59 to win the Greenbrier Classic on August 1, becoming the first player from outside the United States and only the fifth ever to fire the lowest score recorded in any PGA round.

Appleby had not broken 65 in a tour event since 2006, a span of some 358 rounds, and his prior career-low round was a 62 at Las Vegas in 2003.

The magical moment fol-

lowed a season of frustration in 2009, one that saw Appleby finish 137th on the US PGA money list, forcing him to use a one-time exemption for being among the top 25 in career money to return in 2010.

The move led to the magical round at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, to win the Greenbrier and a 38th-place showing on the 2010 tour in a year he capped with a victory in the Australian Masters.

"Stuart showed great perseverance in returning to the winner's circle at the Greenbrier Classic in a historic manner," US PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem said.

Players voted the honor to Appleby ahead of American Rocco Mediate and India's Arjun Atwal.

Atwal became the first player from India to win a PGA event when he won the Wyndham Championship only three weeks after Appleby won the Greenbrier title. It was the first US PGA title by a Monday qualifier in 24 years.

Atwal had lost his tour card the month before because he was unable to win enough money to retain his medical exemption from an injury-filled 2009 beyond eight events. The victory gave him a two-year tour exemption.



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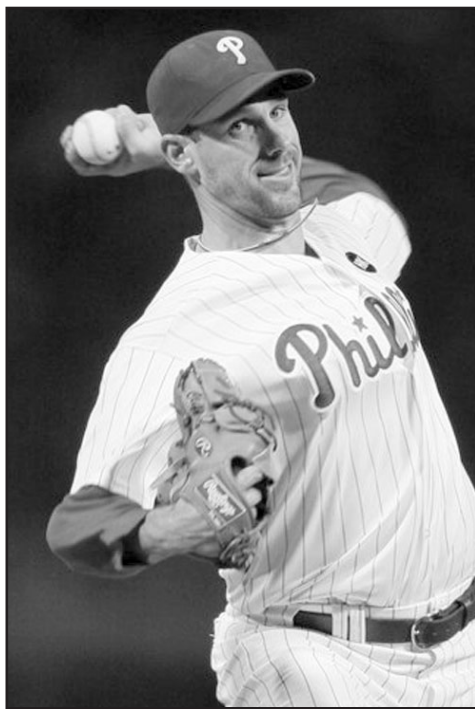
Lee returns to Phillies in five-year deal

PHILADELPHIA (AFP) - Superstar pitcher Cliff Lee agreed to a five-year deal worth 100 million dollars Monday night to return to the Philadelphia Phillies, according to reports from several US news outlets.

Sports Illustrated, the Dallas Morning News, New York Times and ESPN all cited unnamed sources in saying the 32-year-old left-hander, the most prized Major League Baseball free agent, will leave Texas to rejoin the Phillies.

Lee spurned the Rangers and the New York Yankees, who had hoped to answer the hitting power signings by the division-rival Boston Red Sox.

Both losing offers reportedly had more years and money only to have Lee reject them, the Yankees purportedly offering him seven years at 150 million dollars



with Texas seeking him for six years at 120 million dollars.

Together with Roy Halladay, this year's National League Cy Young Award winner as top pitcher, as well

as Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels, the Phillies suddenly have the most formidable staff of starting pitchers in the sport.

Lee had been undefeated in the playoffs until losing twice in this year's World Series to the San Francisco Giants, although Lee did help the Rangers reach their first World Series.

The Phillies obtained Lee in a trade with Cleveland during the 2009 season, then lost to the Yankees in the World Series. The Phillies traded Lee to Seattle and swung a trade to Toronto to acquire Halladay for the 2010 season while Seattle swung a deal to send Lee to Texas.

Lee has a 102-61 record with a 3.85 earned-run average in nine seasons and now has a 7-2 playoff mark with a 2.13 earned-run average.

Giants rip Vikings 21-3 as Favre's streak ends at 297

DETROIT (AFP) - With Brett Favre sidelined after the end of his record 297-start streak, the New York Giants overwhelmed Minnesota with defense on the way to a 21-3 NFL victory on Monday in a neutral-site game.

Brandon Jacobs and Ahmad Bradshaw ran for touchdowns and Eli Manning threw a touchdown for the Giants, who improved to 9-4 and matched Philadelphia for the NFC East division lead by eliminating Minnesota, 5-8, from playoff contention.

Favre was put on the inactive list before the game, ending his streak of 297 consecutive NFL starts and possibly the 41-year-old legend's career, because of a right shoulder injury.



Doctors say Favre's injury could take three weeks to heal and only three weeks remain in the season.

The results were somewhat overshadowed by the drama of Favre's absence and the difficulty of simply playing the game, which was originally scheduled for Sunday in Minneapolis.

The game was postponed to Monday night because of a

huge snowstorm that struck Minnesota on Saturday. Heavy snow collapsed the inflated domed roof of the Metrodome on Sunday morning, forcing the NFL to move the game 700 miles east to Detroit.

"We're pleased with the win," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "I was pleased with how our guys handled the inconveniences. Our offense wasn't sharp but we came away with a win. It's what we came here to do. We kept pace with the win."

Thousands of free tickets for the game in the domed home of the NFL's Detroit Lions were given out in two hours. It was the first Monday night game in Detroit since 2001.

Bogut stars as Bucks snap Mavs' win streak at 12 games



DALLAS (AFP) - Australia's Andrew Bogut scored 21 points and grabbed 14 rebounds to power the Milwaukee Bucks past Dallas 103-99 on Monday, snapping the Mavericks' win streak at 12

games.

Brandon Jennings added 23 points and 10 assists for Milwaukee, which improved to 10-13, eight in the Eastern Conference, by erasing a 20-point second-quarter deficit for their fourth victory in five games.

"It was a huge, huge win for us," Bogut said. "Obviously they are one of the best teams in the NBA. We have a lot of respect for them. They have done a lot of great things and are probably the hottest team at the moment."

It was only Milwaukee's third road triumph in 11 attempts, but one that will be a key in team building, according to the Aussie big man.

"It's nice to have that feel after a game like this and win a game on the road," Bogut said. "Winning games on the road, that builds character and brings camaraderie."

The deal is sealed!




Theo Epstein (L), general manager of the Boston Red Sox, welcomes Carl Crawford to the team during a press conference to announce Crawford's signing last weekend at the Fenway Park in Boston, Massachusetts. The Red Sox signed Crawford to a seven-year \$142 million dollar contract.

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Jets coach fined, banned for season after tripping foe

EAST RUTHERFORD, (AFP) - New York Jets strength and conditioning coach Sal Alosi was suspended without pay for the remainder of the season by the team Monday, a day after tripping a Miami player during a loss.

Alosi was also fined an extra 25,000 dollars for sticking out his left knee and trip-

ping Dolphins rookie defender Nolan Carroll as he ran down the sideline during a punt in Miami's 10-6 National Football League victory over the Jets.

"I accept responsibility for my actions and respect the team's decision," Alosi said in a statement.

The banishment began immediately and will mean

Alosi will have no access to the team's training complex even as the Jets, 9-4, fight for a playoff berth. He can have no access to players or coaches pertaining to his job function.

"I let everybody down with my actions. My actions were inexcusable and irresponsible," Alosi said.



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Van Marwijk set to quit Dutch post after Euro 2012

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Dutch coach Bert van Marwijk says he intends to quit his post and return to club football after Euro 2012, Dutch magazine NUsport on Tuesday quoted him as saying.

"I think I will leave my post as national coach after 2012. I will be at the end of my contract and it will be time to think of something else," said the 58-year-old who guided the Dutch to the World Cup final in the summer where they lost to Spain.

He added he was thinking of a return to club management although "not in the

Netherlands.

"My preference would be Germany, England or Spain. Various clubs have already contacted me but for the time being my heart still lies with the Oranje," said Van Marwijk, who has coach Feyenoord and Germany's Borussia Dortmund.

Van Marwijk succeeded Marco van Basten two years ago in the national job and under his tutelage the Dutch have, as well as their World Cup run, started off strongly in the Euro 2012 qualifiers as they target a berth in the finals in Poland and Ukraine.



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